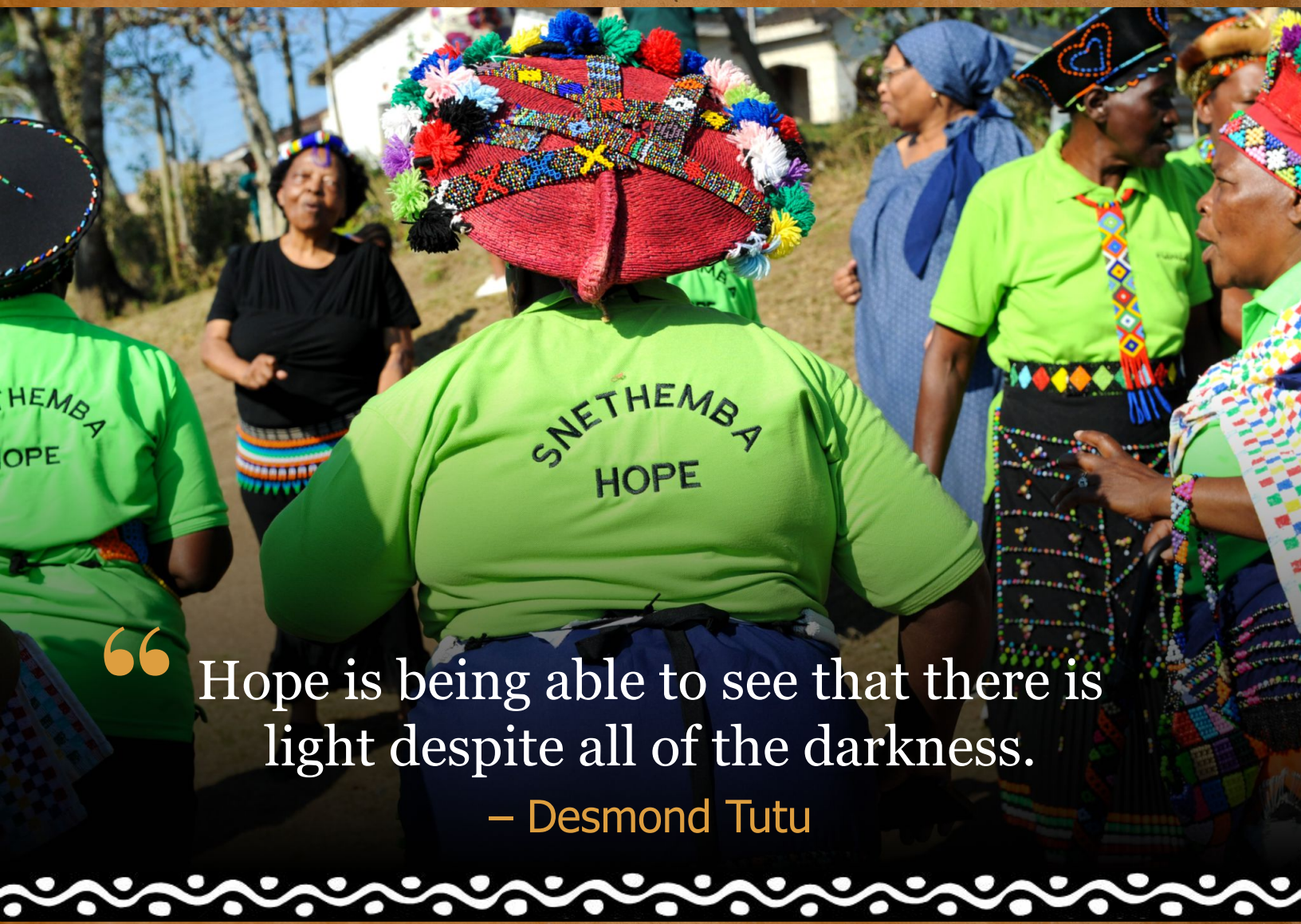
UJAMAA GRANDMAS

2025 Annual Report



> Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.
>
> – Desmond Tutu

Grandmothers to Grandmothers

Stephen Lewis Foundation

Photo credit: Lerato Maduna (Hope-filled members of a Hillcrest AIDS Centre Trust (HACT) community)

Snethemba is a Zulu word (also used in Xhosa) that translates directly to "We have hope" or "We are hopeful". Derived from si- (we), -na- (have), and ithemba (hope), it is a popular name signifying optimism, faith, and resilience. It is often given as a blessing for a brighter future or during difficult times. It reflects a deep cultural emphasis on maintaining hope and trusting in a positive future.

This reflects the reality many African grandmothers face—and the light that the work of Ujamaa Grandmas and other Grandmothers Campaign groups help sustain, grounded in resilience, collective action, and care.

UJAMAA GRANDMAS

Vision

An enduring and nurturing community, working to assist African grandmothers and children affected by HIV/AIDS, to improve their lives.

Mission

To raise awareness and funds for the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign, using the skills and talents of a vibrant volunteer community.

Values

Solidarity: We commit to one another's well-being.

Social Justice: "We won't rest until they can rest" so we can contribute to meeting the needs of grandmothers and 'grand others' (locally and in Africa).

Powered By Love: Meaningful relationships empower our collective efforts.

Simplicity: We strive for clarity, consistency, to make decisions quickly and pragmatically, focusing on what is essential.

Trust: Treat each other with respect, believe in one another and use positive communication to support each other.

Care: We act responsibly towards our members, contributors, society and our environment.

Strategic Priorities		
Nurturing Build a strong, vibrant and nurturing community to ensure Ujamaa Grandmas is welcoming and sustains meaningful engagement for all members.	**Awareness** Promote the Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF) and Ujamaa Grandmas at all events, with an element of education.	**Raising Funds** Work to raise funds to celebrate and support the efforts of the SLF grassroots groups in Africa.

Land Acknowledgement

We are walking hand in hand on this safe and bountiful land, which is Treaty Seven Territory and part of the Bow River Watershed, traditional territory of the Blackfoot Confederacy, made up of the Piikani, Siksika, Kainai, Stoney Nakoda and the Tsuut'ina First Nations, and home of the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region Three, within the historical Northwest Métis homeland.

We give thanks to the Creator for this great gift and recognize our responsibility as treaty people to care for the land and waters that nourish us and give us strength. We also acknowledge that it is our duty to do more to learn about the rich history of this land to better understand our roles as residents, neighbours and caretakers.

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REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Board Chair



Grandmothers have always been powerful agents of care, resilience and change within families and communities. Across generations, they have shared knowledge, nurtured traditions and helped shape the values that guide us. We see this in the lives of our African sisters who care for and guide their grandchildren and others in their communities, often under very challenging circumstances. Their strength and determination continue to inspire us.

Here at Ujamaa Grandmas, we see many of those same traditions reflected in our own community. When we gather at meetings or fundraising events, stories are often shared about skills and traditions passed down through generations — quilting, knitting, sewing and other forms of handcrafting. In this way, the legacy of grandmothers continues to live on in the work we do together.

Our sisterhood of grandmothers and "grand others" is a community I am deeply honoured to be part of. Together, we raise funds and awareness for the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign. Since our founding in 2004, members and supporters have raised more than two million dollars in support of this work. In 2025, our fundraising efforts once again surpassed our goals — an extraordinary accomplishment that reflects the dedication, generosity and perseverance of everyone who has contributed over the years.

One of the most meaningful experiences of the past year for me personally was travelling with an SLF delegation to South Africa and Eswatini to visit several of the Foundation's partner organizations. Meeting the grandmothers and community members whose lives are touched by this work was both inspiring and humbling. Stephen Lewis once said that the grandmothers of Africa are the unsung heroes of the HIV and AIDS pandemic. After meeting some of these remarkable women myself, I can say that this is no exaggeration. Their resilience, courage and extraordinary solidarity left a lasting impression on me and deepened my appreciation for the importance of the work we do here at home. Seeing the impact of our collective efforts firsthand was a powerful reminder that what we do truly matters.

At a time when international funding cuts have created new uncertainty and placed additional strain on HIV and AIDS programs across Africa, the need for hope has never been greater. These setbacks are deeply concerning, but they also remind us why our commitment must remain strong. Hope is not simply wishful thinking — it is the determination to continue standing alongside our African sisters and the partner organizations doing life-changing work on the ground. Through continued advocacy, compassion and collective action, we remain hopeful that the vision of ending AIDS in Africa can still be realized.

Throughout the year, our members continued to support the Foundation through fundraising events, gatherings, and by helping to spread awareness of the vital work being done by SLF partner organizations. Thanks to the dedication and generosity of our members and supporters, we were once again able to make a meaningful contribution.

Our Board is made up of a talented and committed group of volunteers who meet regularly to guide the work of the organization and ensure that our activities continue to align with our mission. I am deeply grateful for their thoughtful leadership and dedication, as well as for the many members who contribute their time and energy through committees and special projects. The committee reports elsewhere in this annual report reflect the breadth and importance of this work.

When I first stepped into the role of Chair, it was somewhat unexpectedly and certainly outside of my comfort zone. Over the past year I have continued to grow in this role and have been grateful for the guidance, encouragement and kindness so many of you have extended to me along the way. It has been a privilege to serve this organization and to work alongside such a caring and committed group of people. What makes Ujamaa Grandmas so special is our compassion, our commitment, and our willingness to work together to make a difference.

As we look ahead to the coming year, we remain committed to strengthening our community, raising awareness, and supporting the remarkable partner organizations whose work makes such a profound difference in the lives of so many families. Together, we are part of a global circle of grandmothers whose compassion, determination and solidarity continue to change lives.

With gratitude and hope,
Charlotte (Char) Holmlund



Canadian delegation on 2025 SLF Solidarity Trip with members of the HACT community

Communications

The Communications Coordinator monitors Ujamaa Grandmas general email address and forwards emails to the appropriate people or committees. They help keep the membership informed by publishing the monthly newsletter, sending out pertinent notices and announcements to members and customers as requested and working with the Webmaster to post the pertinent information onto the Ujamaa Grandmas (UG) website.

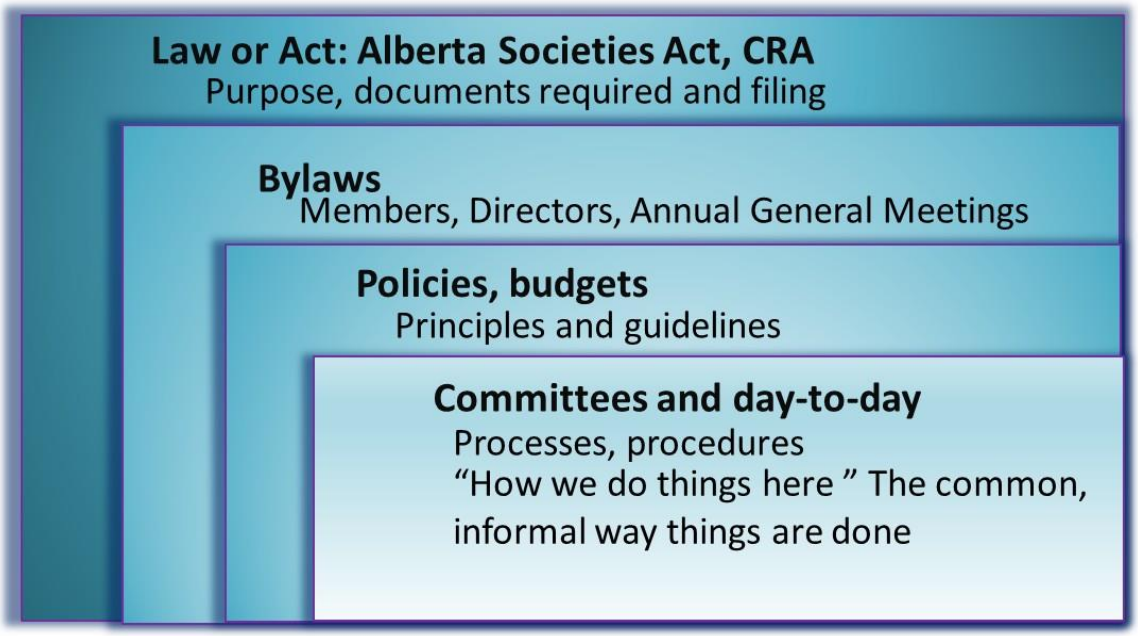
Two initiatives were undertaken this year.

- In July we changed how Ujamaa Grandma news was delivered to members. We shifted from E-news delivered in an email format to a newsletter. Area leads deliver their reports 6 days before the newsletter is distributed on the first of each month. Contributors have been very supportive and timely in their submissions.
- To help protect members' personal information and maintain Ujamaa Grandmas' credibility and continuity:
    - Personal email addresses will no longer be published in public Ujamaa Grandmas communications — including newsletters, e-Blasts, or on the UG website.
    - Designated UG email addresses will be provided for committees and key roles. We strongly encourage the use of these UG addresses for all external communications.



Submitted by Sarah Schmuck

Governance



Just as a smoothly running car has parts that we seldom think about, the Governance Committee operates in the background, supporting the Board by dealing with the processes and systems by which we operate. In 2025, we reviewed several policies, consulted with committees whose Committee Terms of Reference (TOR) were due for review, helped edit a new TOR and engaged in thoughtful conversations about board governance. Each UG board policy and TOR is reviewed at least every three years or earlier if they need to be refreshed.

As with operating a car, there is always fine-tuning to make sure that we are on the right road to continued good governance practices. Our governance conversations included discussions and recommendations to the Board on topics such as ensuring that our document-signing practices match our bylaws requirements, contemplating our handling of personal information and considering the complexities of document management in UG's fast-moving, multi-faceted, volunteer-run environment.

A very warm thank you to the new and long-term members of the Governance Committee for their commitment, conversations and wisdom. In 2025, we saw some changes to the membership of the Governance Committee. Phyllis McCord stepped down as chair of the committee. We are delighted that Phyllis remains on the committee. Sue Asquith resigned from the Governance Committee. We welcomed Janna Bell as the liaison to the Board.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Governance Committee (Phyllis McCord, Jan Geggie, Liz Forseth, Janna Bell and Judy Hansen)

Judy Hansen

Nominations

As Ujamaa Grandmas continues to grow, our community is experiencing change that we have not quite been accustomed to. We continue to find ways to make our work meaningful, we pull together with an unbreakable bond, and we build relationships that will last a lifetime. We lean on each other and invite our friends and family to join us on our mission. As the saying goes, there is strength in numbers, and with that there is more enjoyment in supporting our fellow members. We continue to seek new member volunteers who are willing to lend their skills, knowledge and expertise to the many committees, events, and sales that comprise the work of our organization.

Each year there are changes and new needs on our Board of Directors. Members who have served their terms or those who have graciously given their time and talents and need to move on, leave critical vacancies that need to be filled for Ujamaa Grandmas to continue functioning as a non-profit organization in Alberta. Even in an organization as large as ours, finding members to take on this important work is not an easy task. If we want our organization to continue to grow and prosper, and thrive in our overall mission of supporting the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign, we need members to take a turn at sharing their valuable skills to serve on the Board of Directors.

This year we had several new members who learned alongside their more experienced Board colleagues. The camaraderie, the support, and the willingness to roll up one's sleeves made this Board of Directors one of impressive achievement and inspiring teamwork. Foremost, there was the building of new friendships, while working together with respect, humility, and grace. We welcome fresh ideas, open dialogue, and empathy in blending this volunteer opportunity with personal responsibilities.

We invite all members to consider the importance of our community's achievements and aspirations. We rely on each other for recommendations. Joining the board, committees, or volunteering at events, is a rewarding experience with Ujamaa Grandmas. As we take the time to truly reflect on who we help — Grandmothers and their families impacted by HIV/AIDS — we all feel that we could do more. We should do more. We appreciate our membership and thank you for your participation, skills, time, and support.

Respectfully submitted,

Janna Bell, Vice Chair



REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRS/COORDINATORS

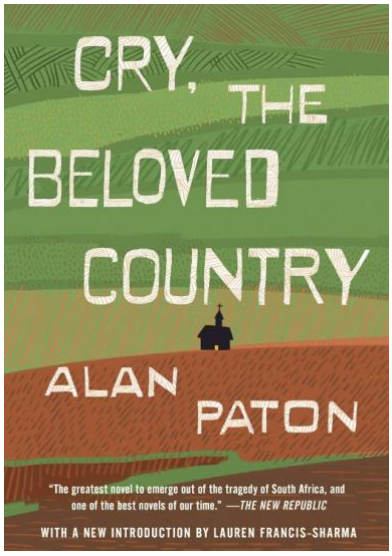
African Book Club

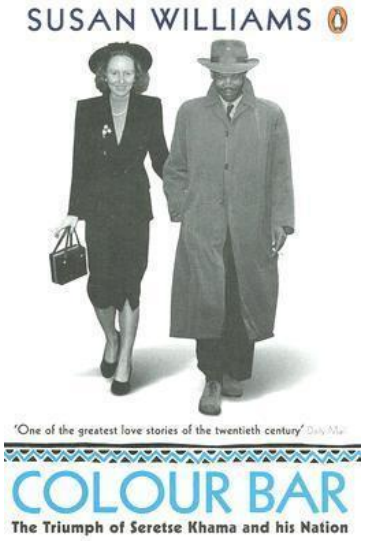
The Africa Book Club has been meeting every six weeks via Zoom for five years now. Because of Zoom, members who have moved from Calgary or who may be out of town can still participate. Regular attendance ranges from 6 to 8, and new members are always welcome.

We read books about Africa, alternating fiction and non-fiction, and focus on those written by Africans. Our members include women originally from Africa, those who have lived in Africa, those who have visited it, and those who have only read about it. We become immersed in stories set in times and places so different from our own, while relating to the common humanity of the people we encounter there.

Our group met 8 times in 2025. We "visited" Uganda, Nigeria, Ghana, Sudan, Botswana, South Africa, and Kenya. Favourites included the classic, Cry the Beloved Country by Alan Paton, a tragedy of racial injustice in South Africa set in the 1940s, and The Colour Bar by Susan Williams, about the life of Seretse Khama, who became first President after Botswana's independence, who was for years banned by the British government from his home country because of having married a white woman, and thus broken the colour bar in effect at the time.

Our book choices are posted on our website at http://ujamaagrandmas.com/category/book-club/.





Archival Librarian

Hello! I'm Tina Huckabay, your Archival Librarian, and I'm excited to continue managing our Google Library of electronic documents. This library serves as our central, reliable hub for all important UG materials.

Traditionally, the UG Google Library has contained our official organizational records — bylaws, UG-wide policies, board minutes, and board meeting packages. In addition to maintaining these core documents, I also archive committee materials to support ongoing continuity and future reference.

Moving forward, I strongly encourage all committees to make full use of the library. Sharing your documents not only supports your committee's future planning but also benefits others by providing useful references year after year. Materials such as contact lists, sales tools, advertising assets, event posters, and promotional content often prove extremely valuable for cross-committee collaboration and long-term planning.

To help keep the archive complete and up to date, I kindly ask committees to forward relevant documents to me as they are created or finalized. Consistent contributions ensure the library remains accurate, comprehensive, and helpful for everyone.

The Google Library is available for all UG members to view. Editing access is restricted to protect document integrity, but I'm always happy to assist. If you need help locating a document or submitting materials for archiving, please feel free to reach out — my contact information is listed in the Key Contacts List.

I look forward to working with all committees and board members to strengthen our archive and ensure the library continues to serve the UG effectively.

Warm regards,

Tina Huckabay

Archival Librarian



BAGETTES

Nurturing

- In 2025, BAGETTES continued to meet twice a month — once via Zoom and once in person. Each BAGETTE-TOGETHER included a challenge to make our bag-making adventures more interesting.
- During in-person Togethers, members show and tell projects, drop off and swap supplies, and socialize. The private Facebook page continued to be a place to share tips, links, recommendations, and photos of projects.
- Three new patterns were released in 2025 and this enabled us to engage the Ujamaa Grandmas (UG) makers in a call for testers.

Raising Awareness

- BAGETTES sells patterns online at Payhip and ETSY stores, and every pdf pattern has a description of UG and what we do for the Campaign. Also included are links to the UG website and the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign website.
- Our Instagram page includes links to our shops and the homepages for UG, Stephen Lewis Foundation and the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign.
- One of our strongest supporters continues to be Emmaline Bags of Spruce Grove, Alberta. Emmaline Bags have used their own communications network to help us to promote our patterns and our fundraising efforts.

Raising Funds

- We continue to maintain both our Payhip site and our ETSY shop. The ETSY shop outperforms the stand-alone Payhip shop primarily due to the ease of the ETSY search engine.
- In 2025, Emmaline Bags continued selling our patterns on their website. All proceeds from these sales are donated directly to the Foundation, with credit given to UG. In 2025 these donations totalled just over $2,880. It is a match made in heaven.
- Three new patterns were released in 2025. This brings the total number of patterns in our catalogue to 27.
- After the Bags, Babies & Beyond (BB&B) Sale, an online sealed bid auction was held. Each maker chose a favourite artist and completed a Lilliput backpack in the style of the artist. There were seven Art Lilliputs in the auction and the auction raised $1,120.

A good inventory of finished bags went to BB&B and very few remained after the sale. We'll be starting fresh in 2026.

BAGETTES ART LILLIPUT Online Sealed Bid Auction

LILLIPUT is a small backpack—9" wide x 10" tall x 4" deep (23 x 25.5 x 15 cm) —and features at least one zippered pocket, an inside slip pocket and key tether.

This year, five BAGETTES each chose a favourite artist after whom to fashion their backpack. The inspiration includes work by Pablo Picasso, Kelly Mark, Marion Nicoll, Wassily Kandinsky, Noriko Endo, Maud Lewis and Leonard Cohen. Each LILLIPUT comes with a short artist bio and a maker's statement.

These seven, one-of-a-kind LILLIPUTS are available for purchase in an online sealed bid auction from November 24 to midnight December 2. Full details can be found in the bidding form.

One LILLIPUT will be featured each day on our Facebook page and Instagram.

Highest bidder will take home the item so be prepared to bid what it is worth to you. Make your best bid to "win" your favourite.















Submitted by Patty Cucman for BAGETTES

Bake Sale

Once again in a tradition going back to 2009, Ujamaa Grandmas held a bake sale in conjunction with the November Justice Film Festival. However, the festival is now held at The Confluence, and the Peace Fair part is only open for one day of the festival (instead of two or three). Also, there are more vendors, or info tables at the Fair than previously and many of them are selling baking. As usual, our members generously contributed lovely baking and several volunteers turned up to carry supplies, set up, price, arrange and sell baking plus chat up prospective customers and tell them about our sale. Many thanks to Donna Fallon, Jill Hanson, Andrea O'Rourke, Jerri Cox and Susan Plesuk plus all the bakers. Heather Wylie, a new member, had volunteered to coordinate the bake sale this year but was hospitalized just before the sale. Our proceeds were $729.00. Considering we used to make about $1,800 and members contribute the baking ingredients and time, at the moment, the feeling of this committee is to not continue with this sale.



Anne Taylor

Connections

The Connections Team members are Marilyn Simmons & Lorraine Campbell, with Co-leaders being Marion Shadlock and Diane Pea.

We held two picnics, one in July and one in August which were drop-off opportunities for items for the B&B Sale.

The Christmas Lunch was held at the Foxtrot Restaurant at Spruce Meadows with 10 members attending.

As usual, time for relaxing is difficult to find where many members could attend.

The Board is hoping to establish a sub-committee of the Connections Team called The Hospitality Group. This Group would be responsible for setting up and taking down chairs and tables for the Gatherings each month, planning any celebrations following our sales, and doing any floor clean up as needed. So far one person has responded; three or four would be nice.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Simmons



Members of a Siyanqoba Community in rural Kwa Zulu Natal province of S. Africa connecting with Canadian grandmothers

Education and Awareness



The purpose of the Education and Awareness Committee is to educate Ujamaa Grandmas (UG) as well as the larger community about the Stephen Lewis Foundation (SLF) and how Ujamaa Grandmas contributes to the work of SLF's Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign.

In September, long-time chair of the Education and Awareness Committee, Anne Taylor moved into the role of Southern Alberta Grandmother Regional Liaison. Anne's knowledge of and enthusiasm for Ujamaa Grandmas and the Stephen Lewis Foundation will be missed. Judy Howe had been the Southern Alberta Grandmother Regional Liaison since 2019 and has now moved into the position of co-chair of the Education and Awareness Committee. Charmaine Reddy, a board member, has also joined the Education and Awareness Committee. Thanks to both of you.

During 2025, the Committee was not invited to present information about the Stephen Lewis Foundation, the Grandmothers to Grandmothers Campaign or Ujamaa Grandmas to groups. The Education and Awareness Committee is always looking for new venues and groups to share information about the incredible work of the Stephen Lewis Foundation and Ujamaa Grandmas.

During the past year, at least one of the committee members has attended the monthly gatherings to provide information about the various projects that the Stephen Lewis Foundation supports. In addition, the committee provides information about various projects receiving support from SLF in the monthly E-News.

At both the Fabric and Yarn sale and the Bags, Babies and Beyond event, members of the Education and Awareness Committee set up the banners and were available to chat with attendees about the work of both Ujamaa Grandmas and the SLF.

A member of the committee attended Knit in Public at Bowness Park and gave out literature and shared information about Ujamaa Grandmas.

Submitted by Judy Howe, Charmaine Reddy, and Susan Plesuk

Fabric & Yarn Sale



2025 was another banner year for the annual Fabric & Yarn Sale. The final figure for sales as given to us by our treasurer was $176,756. There were also direct donations received of over $2,000. The sale is a big business.

It would be impossible to have this sale without the help of over 400 volunteers. A sincere thank you to all the people who work to make the sale successful. We are working to get more co-leads in the various areas. The role of the Co-ordinator will transition into a small committee of no more than 4 members who will share the workload.

Donations are accepted each year starting about September 1. Pre-sorting is done in some of the many storage homes to help get ready for the sale. There are 3 days for public drop off at Garrison Curling Club. The set up is from Saturday to Thursday and then the sale is Friday, Saturday, and Sunday with final clean up on Monday. Thank you to World Serve and WINS, local charities, who come on Monday morning and take the last of the useful leftovers.

We need to be aware of both how the sale started and how it has changed over the years. It started as a means of getting fabric to make items for the BB&B sale. The first year most of the fabric was washed and pressed before the sale. It has grown into a gigantic sale of all things sewing, knitting and crafts. Continuing with fabric for BB&B items, we also work to keep things from the landfill. We donate the money proceeds to the SLF but support local charity groups by allowing them to register and come in at the end of the sale to take things that they can use. Theatre costumes, blankets for babies, school sewing projects, quilts for the Alberta Children's Hospital and many other items have been made from our fabrics. We support internationally as well as locally.

Garrison Curling Club is an ideal location for us. Unfortunately, Saturday has both hockey and soccer tournaments beside us so parking can be an issue. We have no control over that.

Publicity through technology and instant social messaging increased the number of customers in 2025. That is the advantage of new members joining us who know how to best use social media.

The sale allows and needs to be flexible because we cannot be certain about how much we will have until it arrives. We must be flexible about displaying and working with all donations. Pricing is always a concern, but each area sets up a plan and then presents it to the committee.

We look forward to the 2026 sale as we learn from the 2025 sale.

Thank you for supporting the Fabric & Yarn Sale 2025.



Dawn Bolger

Handcrafts

The Handcrafts Committee has been the core group supporting Bags, Babies, & Beyond (BB&B) and the variety of groups that have emerged to help that work over time. In the past year, the group worked without a chair and is a reflection of our Ujamaa volunteers who step up and use teamwork when things need to be done. This is seen at every committee meeting and with our Sew Days, the new Yarnies group, the Knit in Public event, and always for our annual Bags, Babies & Beyond each fall.

One of the questions often asked is if the Handcrafts Committee and BB&B are one. The Handcrafts Committee supports BB&B, with a smaller subcommittee completing all necessary planning and preparation to make sure BB&B can happen. What that looks like in everyday actions means that our monthly Sew Days create items for the sale while engaging members socially and the sale has beautiful items from their creativity. The same is true for our Yarnies, who not only create crocheted and knitted items for the sale, but also share their expertise and get to know one another while enjoying their shared interests. Our product custodians gather, organize, and keep track of all these items over the year leading up to BB&B. Leadership, teamwork, creativity, communication, and organizational skills all play important roles in our committee.

Along with creating, the Knit Me Bag initiative is our way of spreading awareness of the Stephen Lewis Foundation and the Campaign. Reaching out to other like-minded creative members in Calgary on Knit in Public day, we share a "treat bag" of patterns, yarns, needles, and our information about Ujamaa Grandmas and the Stephen Lewis Foundation, and our work. This past year, some of the committee members took 25 bags to the event which were well received. We hope to spread the word of our work, potentially get back some items for the sale or a donation to SLF, as well as encouraging new membership.

So much of what committee members do involves supporting one another in a wide variety of ways. Gathering donations, sharing them in projects, making in its many forms, using skills to organize events, and working side by side with respect and appreciation of our many abilities has led to growing in new ways, learning from one another, and creating success in each endeavor Ujamaa takes on. The Handcrafts Committee is an active reflection of all these things. We will continue to support each other and our variety of special interest groups. The pillars of Ujamaa — caring for our members, spreading awareness of UG and SLF, and raising funds — are all woven into the work the Handcrafts Committee is doing.

Respectfully submitted,

Carla Lorfing

Bags, Babies, & Beyond



Bags, Babies, & Beyond (BB&B) 2025 was held at Marda Loop Communities Association on October 17th and 18th. The event was planned by a small committee of volunteers: Sandra Burgess (chairperson), Carol Spring (previous chairperson), Elaine Gartner, and Lee McNiven. Following a well-designed timeline, the committee planned the BB&B. Customers were enthusiastic and showed their support by purchasing over $42,000.00 worth of beautiful and useful products. This event continues to be well supported by our members and the community. There were many customers and lots of excitement over the unique items for sale. Emotional Support Chickens were the hit of the day, and literally flew off the shelves on Friday. The Product Custodians packed up the remaining items on Saturday afternoon to be stored for next year or donated to local charities. The success of BB&B results from the collaborative effort of Handcrafts, Finance, Membership, Education, and Publicity committees with UG Board support. The Heritage Park Rotary Club continues to be an invaluable resource for this event. Rotarians transport props from storage to Marda Loop Communities Association for BB&B on Friday morning, and return these items back to the storage facilities on Saturday afternoon following the sale. Join us October 30th & 31st for BB&B in 2026.

Sandra Burgess

Sew Days

We had an interesting year in 2025 with our regular group of about a dozen Sew Day participants. New members and participants are always encouraged. Several days were occupied with group projects: making vinyl pouches, "Cutie catch-all pouches", rice bags, and a repeat of mesh shopping bags. Participants are always encouraged to bring their own projects being worked on for BB&B. Kits can be made available for sewing at Sew Day, if participants are "between projects". We enjoyed a Sewer's Retreat in September at a B&B in Pincher Creek which was enthusiastically received! Sew Days will continue in 2026 and participants will continue to provide a variety of items for BB&B.

Elaine Peek

Yarnies Knit and Crochet Group

The Ujamaa Crocheters and Knitters meet monthly on the first Tuesday of the month from 1–3 pm. There are currently 32 people on the email list and meeting attendance varies from 6–15. The group is organized by Mary-Anna Louise Kovar (Accessories Custodian and Yarn Custodian) for the purpose of encouraging the making of items for BB&B while having fun, making friends, sharing creative inspiration, and learning new skills. We meet at various Calgary Public Libraries. Rooms can only be booked 30 days or less in advance of the meetings. Those on the mailing list receive a reminder and notice of the location a week before the meeting. Anyone wanting to join or visit can contact mary-annalouise@telus.net for meeting information.

Mary-Anna Louise Kovar

Sealed Bid Auction

At the 2025 BB&B, the Sealed Bid Auction returned to the BB&B venue as opposed to being held online. This year there were eight unique items in the auction: a crocheted afghan, a Christmas wall quilt, a gaggle of gnomes, a driftwood art piece, a knitting project set, a set of knit accessories, a wool art piece, and a Quilter's advert box. All items received generous bids and all were awarded. The items raised just shy of $1,200.

Patty Cucman

Membership

Liz Leroux, Membership Coordinator, and Susan Plesuk administered the membership information for 2025, with the very skilled help of Cheryl Kundert who manages the membership database.

Ujamaa Grandmas December 2025 membership count was 640 members and customers totalled 714.

We were very pleased to welcome **65 new Ujamaa Grandmas members** and **67 new customers** during 2025. As can be seen by these numbers our membership continues to increase, which is a fundraising benefit to our group and ultimately to the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

Visitors to our website (www.ujamaagrandmas.com) can become members of our group under the heading "Working Together". Data that is gathered as part of the registration questionnaire is maintained in our membership database and is used to search for members who have specific interests or talents and who might be interested in volunteering for certain activities or projects. There have been some technical challenges with our database, but these are in the process of being remedied.

The Membership Committee contacts new members with a Welcome email to give members an opportunity to become familiar with the organization. This is followed by a phone call or email (if no phone number is provided) to add a personal welcome, answer any questions a new member might have and to encourage participation in their areas of interest. Upon request, new members who indicate an interest in Handcrafts, for example, or any other areas are referred to Committee heads for a further discussion regarding future volunteer involvement.

Individuals can remove themselves from our membership at any time by unsubscribing at the bottom of most of our Ujamaa email messages.

Liz Leroux, Susan Plesuk and Cheryl Kundert



Members of the SLF Solidarity Trip with staff from Hillcrest AIDS Community Trust

Publicity



In 2025, the Publicity Committee continued to publicize Ujamaa Grandmas events and news, primarily our two major sales, Fabric and Yarn in the Spring and Bags, Babies & Beyond in the Fall. We used a variety of channels, including social media, notices to external groups, outreach to radio and TV, postings on online events calendars, and limited paid advertising. We were delighted when the Country Register, with whom we have placed a paid ad for the Fabric and Yarn Sale since almost its beginning, offered to print our ad for free. We are very grateful for their support. We also did some publicity through social media for the Quirky Climate Change Fashion Show in November, the Villages partnership event, and the annual Bake Sale at the Justice Film Festival.

Both our major sales were hugely successful fundraisers. We received excellent media coverage for the 2025 Fabric and Yarn Sale from both the CBC, who sent a reporter out to the site, and the Calgary Herald. Lindsay's social media posts for Fabric and Yarn encouraged active engagement and some went viral!

The publicity committee consisted of Leslie Buckle, Valerie Hagens (until May), and Lindsay Fenton. After Valerie moved on, we were joined by Shelley Fung and Sandra Sweet. Sandra has now taken on the role of Committee Chair and brings a wealth of professional experience in communications to the role.

Leslie Buckle

Quirky Climate Change Fashion Show



Models and 'crew' at a Calgary show

A Quirky Climate Change Fashion Show now renamed **Vested Interest: A Climate Fashion Show**, has established itself as a bright, colourful and often humorous fashion show that appeals to women and men alike. It is not your traditional fashion show as the original graphics on 32 garments tell stories of climate change and are NOT sold at the end of each show. The aim is to get people talking about climate change, because if you talk then hopefully you will be inspired to act on climate change.

In 2025 shows have been used as a fundraiser for the Grandmothers Campaign in Calgary, Edmonton, Lethbridge, Red Deer and Canmore with more Grandmother shows in Vancouver, Victoria, Vancouver Island and Edmonton scheduled for Spring 2026.

Invitations to "Other" Community groups to host the show are now being extended for 2026. A video of the full show and a bound/glossy Catalogue are in the works — if funds can be found!



A short CBC film, Vest(ed), has been produced and is accessible in the public domain: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_o6a1jQiLk0

This Calgary artist's "climate vests" are turning heads.

A huge thank you to the very small, dedicated team that has helped make the shows an amazing success. Hopefully we shall continue to attract more volunteers who would like to be involved in presenting the show to an ever-widening audience.

Ellen Monaghan

Sales Finance

Some may disagree, but for the most part 2025 was uneventful for the Sales Finance Committee. Previous changes that included eliminating the writing of sales receipts and cashiers being able to work independently have proven to be a good decision.

There were no unusual issues with the public portion of the Fabric and Yarn sale. With the streamlining of previous years, any line ups were quickly cleared. There could be a bit of a bottleneck at the tally station on Friday so following a "pop up" solution at the sale, we will be flexible in moving some cashiers from cashiering to tallying, as needed.

Concern has been expressed about the ability for cashiers to shop. Except for a couple of shifts during set-up days, cashier shifts are always during the public sale times, making shopping opportunities difficult. There is an ongoing conversation with respect to volunteer shopping with the Fabric & Yarn Sale Committee.

The BB&B sale showed what teamwork is all about. Between illness, vacations, and other absences, there was a bit of scrambling to make sure everything ran smoothly, and it did. Thank you, Team — you are awesome!

We are thankful for the dedicated group of cashier volunteers as their competence and flexibility make the job much easier. As always, there is considerable interest in cashier positions and that interest is truly appreciated! As with all volunteer positions, we ensure individual skill levels are a good fit for the position.

As most are aware, I had to step away from the Sales Finance Committee in 2025, on short notice. I am grateful to the Board of Directors for their understanding and support. We are thrilled Trish Lund agreed to take on the role of Sales Finance Lead starting in 2026. Sales Finance is in most capable hands!



Submitted by Cheryl Aitkens

Stride to Turn the Tide

What a magnificent STRIDE 2025 campaign our team of 10 produced! Thanks to Sandra Burgess, Judy Howe, Janice Lambert, Brigitte Launhardt, Carla Lorfing, Lee McNiven, Cheryl Mills, Paul Paetkau, and Marion Shadlock for their more than diligent contributions of time. Each reported their week's activity times, faithfully, every Sunday evening. Thanks to Leslie Buckle and Valerie Hagens for posting photos on the UG Facebook page. What a team!

We logged an awesome total of 4,125 kms (each hour of activity equalled 5 kms, so that's 825 hours of many different activities) which more than double-surpassed our goal of 2,000 kms. The sponsorship we received from friends and family was $5,083.36, which was slightly below our goal of $6,000.

We'd be delighted if you would consider joining us in June for STRIDE 2026. Information about the event will be in the May e-News. As most of you know, this campaign is yet another fun way to directly support the Stephen Lewis Foundation and our African grandmother sisters.



Submitted by

Jan Geggie, Team Lead

Villages Calgary

From November 2–8 we participated in our annual joint event with Villages (formerly Ten Thousand Villages). During this week, our group received 15% of the total purchases made at Villages that were designated to us, either in person or online. In previous years, the percentage received was 10%.

In 2025, purchases attributed to our group totalled $878.27, resulting in a donation of $131.74 to the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Even with the 5% increase in the share allocated to us, the overall amount raised continues to decline. It is also worth noting that most of these purchases were made by just two individuals.

In earlier years, this initiative took the form of a single evening dedicated to our group. At that time, we were provided with a prominent information table in the store, making it easy to engage customers and draw attention to our work. Villages also promoted the event through in-store posters, and staff would mention the initiative to customers at checkout. When present in the store, members were able to speak directly with shoppers and share information about the project.

Because of the risk of winter weather disruptions, store management later shifted from single-evening events to a week-long format shared among multiple partner organizations. However, over the past two years there has been no in-store promotion prior to or during the event — no posters, signage, or staff promotion of the participating groups. Instead, each partner organization is responsible for raising awareness through its own communications. Customers must also specifically request that their purchase be attributed to the charity of their choice when checking out.

While $131 is certainly appreciated, it raises the question of whether the return justifies the level of effort involved. We are therefore currently considering whether the time and energy required for this initiative are proportionate to the level of financial support it generates for the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

Brigitte Launhardt

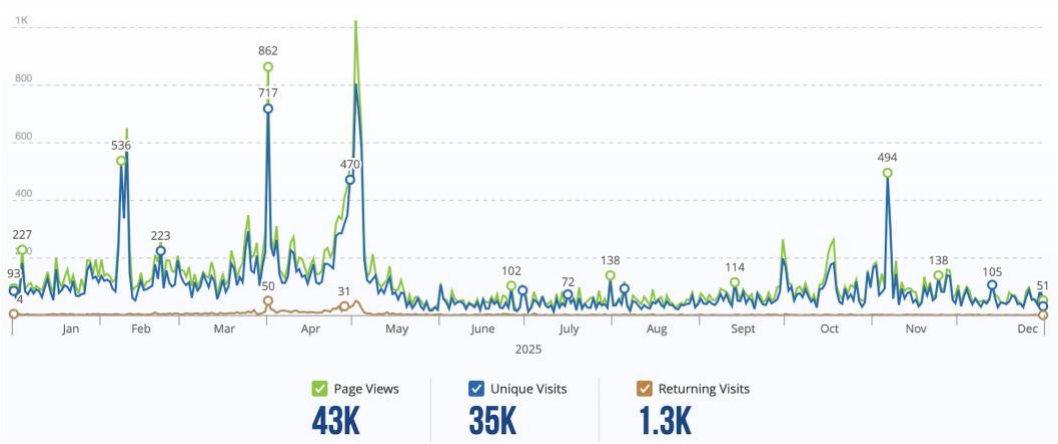


Webmaster

Ujamaa Grandmas continues to rely on 100sitehosting for web hosting, email hosting and domain registration.

Website Statistics

- In 2025, unique site visits totalled 35,000 — about 20% higher than the previous year.
- Unique page views totalled 43,000 — about 18% higher than 2024.
- Unique site visits and page views are driven by the two big fundraisers — Fabric & Yarn Sale and Bags, Babies & Beyond.



Website Highlights

- The calendar continues to note recurring events — Gatherings, Book Club, Yarnies Meet-up, Sew Day, and Board, Handcrafts Committee, Governance Committee, and F&Y Committee meetings — for the entire year, with links to more information and maps when relevant.
- The WHAT'S NEW tab is updated monthly to include relevant items from the E-NEWS.
- There are dedicated pages for makers under the RESOURCES FOR MAKERS tab, updated by the Handcrafts Committee custodians after each sale.
- There is a dedicated place for book club members under the LEARNING ABOUT AFRICA AND RAISING AWARENESS tab.

If you haven't visited for a while, take a look. If you do come to visit and see any issues or have suggestions for improvement, be sure to forward these to either the main email at message@ujamaagrandmas.com or directly to the webmaster at webmaster@ujamaagrandmas.com.

Submitted by Patty Cucman

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Treasurer Report

The 2025 fiscal year resulted in another strong year of growth and impact for Ujamaa Grandmas. Total revenue rose to **$218,380 (after tax)** up from $182,644 in 2024 — an increase of approximately **19.5%**, all thanks to our dedicated volunteers and committees.

Revenue Breakdown (Pre-Tax vs. After-Tax)

The revenue figures traditionally reported to our membership are **pre-tax**. However, for accounting clarity, both pre-tax and after-tax numbers are presented below:

Revenue Source	Pre-Tax Amount	After-Tax Amount
BAGETTES Etsy Sales	$2,167	$2,064
Bake Sale	$761	$725
Fabric & Yarn Sale	$176,756	$168,339
Handcrafts (BB&B)	$44,233	$42,126
Total Revenue	**$223,917**	**$213,254**

Donations

In 2025 Ujamaa Grandmas donated a total of $130,000 to the Stephen Lewis Foundation:

- $126,966 directly from Ujamaa Grandmas
- $3,034 from individual donations made on behalf of the organization

2025's donations were timed and sized based on current fundraising and projected expenses, maintaining a healthy balance between impact and responsible financial stewardship.

Financial Performance

In 2025, Ujamaa Grandmas recorded a **net income of $66,632**. By comparison, 2024 showed a net income of $12,859. This difference is due to the overall increase in sales at our fundraising events.

Overall expenses in 2025 were maintained at the same level as 2024 with the exception of the donation to the Stephen Lewis Foundation, which was $18,000 less in 2025 than the amount donated in 2024.

Financial Review Report

As the appointed financial reviewers, we have reviewed the Financial Report of the Ujamaa Grandmas organization for the fiscal year January 1 – December 31, 2025. The review included examination of the financial records and supporting documentation as provided to us in the course of the review.

In our opinion, this report fairly presents the results of the Ujamaa Grandmas organization for the fiscal year and its financial position at December 31, 2025, on an accounting basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Signature: Tina Huckabay
Email: tina@hbbookkeeping.ca

Tina Huckabay

Signature: Judith E Howe
Judith E Howe (Apr 16, 2026 08:03:40 MDT)
Email: howej@shaw.ca

Judith E Howe

Signed April 16, 2026

Jeffery J O'Rourke
Professional Corporation
Calgary Office - 5103 30th Avenue SW Calgary, AB T3E 6R2
Cochrane Office - Unit 101 1 Bow Ridge Road Cochrane, AB T4C 2J1
Office # 403 – 851 - 0606 Fax # 403 – 851 - 0604
Email: info@jjopc.ca

COMPILATION ENGAGEMENT REPORT

To the Management of Ujamaa Grandmas Helping African Grandmothers Society

On the basis of information provided by management, we have compiled the statement of financial position of Ujamaa Grandmas Helping African Grandmothers Society as at December 31, 2025, and the statements of revenues and expenditures and changes in net assets for the year then ended, and Note 1, which describes the basis of accounting applied in the preparation of the compiled financial information and other explanatory information ("financial information").

Management is responsible for the accompanying financial information, including the accuracy and completeness of the underlying information used to compile it and the selection of the basis of accounting.

We performed this engagement in accordance with Canadian Standard on Related Services (CSRS) 4200, *Compilation Engagements*, which requires us to comply with relevant ethical requirements. Our responsibility is to assist management in the preparation of the financial information.

We did not perform an audit engagement or a review engagement, nor were we required to perform procedures to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information provided by management. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion or a review conclusion, or provide any form of assurance on the financial information.

Readers are cautioned that the financial information may not be appropriate for their purposes.

Calgary, Alberta
March 23, 2026

Jeffery J O'Rourke Professional Corporation
Chartered Professional Accountants

Chartered Professional Accountant

UJAMAA GRANDMAS HELPING AFRICAN GRANDMOTHERS SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
As at December 31, 2025

		2025		2024
ASSETS				
Current assets				
Cash	$	100,048	$	39,022
Term deposits		5,009		-
Accounts receivable		65		-
Prepaid expenses		1,658		665
	$	106,780	$	39,687
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS				
Current liabilities				
Accounts payable	$	1,313	$	1,313
Goods and services tax payable		1,175		714
		2,488		2,027
Net assets		104,292		37,660
	$	106,780	$	39,687

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

Charlotte Holmlund Director

Director

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial information

UJAMAA GRANDMAS HELPING AFRICAN GRANDMOTHERS SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES
For the Year Ended December 31, 2025

		2025		2024
REVENUE				
Sales	$	213,254	$	178,170
Donations		3,034		2,778
Interest		56		25
Goods and services tax		2,036		1,671
		218,380		182,644
EXPENSES				
Advertising and promotion		179		406
Bank charges and interest		11		125
Donation to SLF		130,000		147,787
Fundraising expenses		16,557		17,681
Insurance, licences and dues		2,216		2,161
Office		206		337
Professional fees		1,250		1,250
Supplies		1,329		38
		151,748		169,785
Excess of revenue over expenses	$	**66,632**	$	**12,859**

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial information

UJAMAA GRANDMAS HELPING AFRICAN GRANDMOTHERS SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2025

		2025		2024
Balance, beginning of year	$	37,660	$	24,801
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenses		66,632		12,859
Balance, end of year	$	**104,292**	$	**37,660**

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial information

UJAMAA GRANDMAS HELPING AFRICAN GRANDMOTHERS SOCIETY
NOTES TO FINANCIAL INFORMATION
For the Year Ended December 31, 2025

1. BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The basis of accounting applied in the preparation of the statement of financial position of Ujamaa Grandmas Helping African Grandmothers Society as at December 31, 2025, and the statements of revenues and expenditures and changes in net assets for the year then ended is the historical cost basis and reflects cash transactions with the addition of:

- Accounts receivable less an allowance for doubtful accounts;
- Investments recorded at cost;
- Prepaid expenses
- Accounts payable and accrued liabilities.